



ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1967



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Divisional Health Office,  
Brogden Street,  
Ulverston.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health for the year 1967.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1961	10,527
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1967	10,560
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,600
Rateable Value	£345,500
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£1326.2641

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are manufacture of anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, electronic components, tanning, brewing, tool making, electro-mechanical and light engineering and knitwear manufacturing. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for 1967 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 151 live births registered during 1967, 81 were males of which 4 were illegitimate and 70 were females of which 5 were illegitimate.

Approximately 77% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of deaths were:- Heart disease 76, Vascular lesions of nervous system 54 and Malignant Growths 31. Of the 76 deaths from Heart disease 60 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

The adjusted live birth rate of 15.6 per 1,000 and the adjusted death rate of 12.5 per 1,000 can be compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales of 17.2 per 1,000 and 11.2 per 1,000 respectively.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1967	151	14.3	191	18.1	3	19.0	Nil	Nil	2	13.0	1	7.0
1966	182	17.5	176	16.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	16.5	2	11.0
1965	158	15.3	162	15.7	1	6.3	Nil	Nil	1	6.3	1	6.3
1964	157	15.1	182	17.6	3	18.8	Nil	Nil	3	19.1	1	6.4
1963	146	13.9	185	17.6	3	20.1	Nil	Nil	3	20.5	1	6.8
1962	154	14.7	161	15.4	1	6.5	Nil	Nil	5	32.5	4	26.0
Average 5 years 1962-66	-	15.3	-	16.6	-	10.3	-	Nil	-	19.0	-	11.3

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.09) = 15.6 per 1,000  
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.69) = 12.5 per 1,000



### STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :-

J.L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments held :-

Medical Officer of Health -

Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.  
Grange-over-Sands Urban District  
North Lonsdale Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -

Health Division No. 1.  
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector :-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate R.S.I.  
Meat and other Foods Certificate.

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### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

#### WATER SUPPLY

The Furness Water Board is responsible for the provision and maintenance of public water supplies in the Ulverston Urban District. The water supplied to the District is upland surface water which is collected into Pennington reservoir. It is sand filtered, then stored in a covered service reservoir of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons capacity. Subsequently it is chlorinated before passing into the trunk main for distribution.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

During the year 119 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,597 houses were supplied direct and 6 were supplied from private sources.

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewage is screened and disintegrated, then stored and discharged out to sea only on an ebb tide, but storm water overflow is pumped out to sea at any state of the tide. All operations are automatic.

At 31st December, 1967 there were approximately 3,580 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 7,100 fresh water closets.

# HOUSING

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year:-

<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil
114	Nil

(2) Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year 1,048

(3) Inspections of dwellings during the year:-

(1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	20
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	204
(c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	20
(2) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time)	40
(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made	17

(4) Houses Demolished:- Nil

(5) Unfit Houses Closed:-

<u>Number</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	10	21
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

(6) Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:-

<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(1) After informal action by local authority	22
(2) After formal notice under	
(a) Public Health Acts	4
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil

(7) Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):- Nil

(8) Purchase of Houses by Agreement:-

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased during the year Nil





INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector (Appendix 'A')

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1967 is given in the table below, together with the numbers notified in the preceding 5 years.

Disease	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Scarlet fever	1	0	8	2	0	0
Measles	23	192	21	264	36	217
Whooping cough	0	12	2	0	0	5
Dysentery	0	1	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	24	205	32	266	36	222

The outbreak of measles occurred in the last quarter of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1967.

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Urban District residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1961	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1962	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1963	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1964	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1965	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
1966	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1967	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above-mentioned Acts.

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In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1967.

The clearance of unfit property, the repair of other houses, and more recently improvements, have been the predominant features of annual reports for many years. In 1967, although slum clearance by way of Housing Acts procedure did not take place, the removal of areas of unfit houses continues as progress is made with the extension of the trunk road. Ten families comprising 21 persons from sub-standard houses, and families from other houses, required for road purposes, were re-housed, mainly from Brewery Street, Bridge Street and Eilers triangle. The area included unfit and unstable houses, (some of which have been empty for nearly twenty years), and demolition scheduled to take place in the near future will do much to open up and improve this part of the town. Only one person remains to be re-housed from the unfit property in Sunderland Terrace, and this area, largely a legacy from the late 1930's slum clearance schemes, will similarly be cleared and used for road improvements. These two groups of properties represent the last of the larger blocks of houses included in early slum clearance proposals and it is hoped that some action may now be possible in the near future to clear other smaller areas of closed and derelict buildings.

Considerable time has been spent on informal action for the voluntary improvement of houses. A report was submitted in November on the result of this work and the following is a summary on the principle comments.

1. A fair degree of success has been achieved in voluntary improvement of houses. 87 houses in the South Ulverston district were without the main standard amenities two years ago and 41 of these have been brought up to improvement grant standards.
2. House rents in this area are in many cases low and this does not encourage owners to do more than the most essential repair. Even with an improvement grant the cost of other repairs also required would deny any chance of a return of the money expended.
3. Much of the property in South Ulverston has a restricted future life and formal action for the compulsory improvement of all houses here could not be recommended.
4. The acquisition by the Council of several occupied houses in this area would not relieve the housing waiting list, and in future, these, together with the existing Council owned houses, could possibly be an embarrassment. Purchase, repair and improvement would require a substantial rent increase and it is a debateable point whether the tenants could or would agree to the change.
5. A knowledge of the problems affecting different types of properties has been gained but little further progress by informal action could be taken to achieve any better results in the areas so far dealt with.
6. If house improvement in the other areas of the town is to be made in the near future this should be considered in conjunction with the removal of unfit houses on the site of the trunk road. These areas are to be considerably improved and the remaining inhabited houses should similarly be improved. The property is almost all capable of satisfying the conditions imposed by improvement grants and the whole could be treated as Improvement Areas using the statutory power provided in the Housing Acts.

During 1967, two discretionary grants and 37 standard grants were made for the improvement of houses. This is not a particularly good achievement in view of the publicity and advice given to many property owners in the informal improvement areas and elsewhere.

22 houses, mainly in South Ulverston, were made fit or had defects remedied after serving formal or informal notices under the Public Health Acts and some 204 inspections were made for this purpose.



FOOD INSPECTION

The following unsound food was surrendered or condemned during the year.

	cwt.	lbs.
Meat at Slaughterhouse	13	97 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Meat at retail shops		13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Cooked meat and meat products		6
Canned meats	1	67
Other canned foods	1	55 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Fish (fresh)		35
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TOTAL	17	40 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
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The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir was similar to previous years but the number of whole carcasses condemned was the lowest on record. The incidence of disease in the organs of carcasses was similarly remarkably low and this may be due to two particular facts - in the case of cattle approximately 99% are young cattle reared exclusively for beef, and fewer casualty animals (which would include the sick and lame) are sent for emergency slaughter.

The incidence of Foot and Mouth disease, which fortunately did not directly affect this area other than the control of livestock, restricted the movement of casualty animals which may otherwise be consigned to the slaughterhouse. The condition requiring all animals to be slaughtered within 48 hours of arrival at the Abattoir caused some congestion in slaughtering at weekends but otherwise the premises continued to provide a useful service to butchers over a large area.

Two carcasses of bullock beef were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis and were detained in cold storage for three weeks before being released for retail sale. It is interesting to note that no animal bred locally has been found to be so affected for over six years.

Tuberculosis was not found in any animal slaughtered during the year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1315	10	196	4920	1848
Number not inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	2	6	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	52	1	Nil	15	17
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<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



Routine inspections of all food preparing premises have continued. One food shop proprietor was convicted on five offences under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations and fined a total of £50. The offences were relating to a failure to keep a food room in a satisfactory state of cleanliness and decoration.

Only one complaint of foreign matter in food was received. This referred to a cake purchased in another area and the necessary evidence was forwarded to the authority for any action considered necessary.

Samples of untreated milk, as offered for retail sale, are submitted for analysis once per month whenever possible. Of 67 such samples, 7 were found to be Brucella ring test positive, and from these, three were positive when cultured. Legislation prohibiting the sale of milk from which Brucella Abortus has been isolated was put into effect at two dairy farms and remained in force until satisfactory evidence was produced that no infection remained. Insufficient proof prevented the serving of a restriction order at the third farm and subsequent samples have been negative for Brucellosis. A large proportion of untreated milk is still sold by retail but during the past few years the amount of pasteurised milk has increased. Where a change has taken place the consumer appears to have no criticism and this goes a long way to dispel doubts that heat treated milk would not be acceptable in an area which has such strong farming connections.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

The following table gives particulars of Registrations and General Inspections specifically carried out under the Act during the year -

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	Nil	25	2
Retail shops	Nil	118	18
Wholesale shops, Warehouses.	Nil	3	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.	Nil	10	5
Fuel storage depots	Nil	1	-
TOTALS	Nil	157	27

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises under the Act.	<u>27</u>
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Inspections have been carried out at all the premises during previous years but owing to other commitments only 17% received a full inspection during the year. Five contraventions relating to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences, sitting facilities and lack of first aid equipment were found and subsequently remedied. Fortunately the majority of premises include such trades as retail food shops and catering establishments which are otherwise supervised and dealt with under other legislation.

## GENERAL

Figures relating to rodent control are given below and included in this report to show the continuing efforts made to ensure an adequate safeguard against major infestations of this pest. Test baiting and where necessary, further control of rat infestation in the sewers is carried out twice yearly. Some indication that this is still necessary is shown in the repeated slight build up that takes place in portions of the town associated with natural water courses. The Council tip is a source of breeding which has been kept to minimum proportions by the judicious use of different poisons so as not to build up a poison prejudice or acquired immunity in a rat colony. Contracts for the control of rats and mice on farms are made when ever possible and although Foot and Mouth restrictions prohibited routine visits for a period renewed efforts since controls were lifted have been made to erradicate rats (which could be a means of spread of this disease) from farm buildings.

46 dwelling houses have been disinfested because of insect infestation. The most frequent trouble was caused by ants in kitchens and other food rooms but there was also a demand in Autumn to destroy a number of wasps nests in roofs and similar parts of domestic premises. One house had a Cockroach infestation but the more serious bed bug and flea problem in houses appears to have been erradicated some time ago.

	Non- Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	4637	19
2.(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	218	Nil
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	103	Nil
(ii) Mice	110	Nil
3.(a) Total number of properties inspected. for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	408	9
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	70	8
(ii) Mice	130	1





FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
in respect of the year 1967 for the Ulverston  
Urban District in the County of Lancashire.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act.

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	Nil	Nil	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	28	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	66	28	Nil	-

2. - Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u> <u>To H.M. By H.M.</u> <u>Inspector Inspector</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

Particulars under Sections 133 and 134

No. of outworkers in August list	Nil
No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	Nil







